

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /155 W

----- 051403

R 130810Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7700

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652C N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MY, SU, XO, ASEAN

SUBJ: SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA STATES VIEWS ON INDIAN  
OCEAN, ASEAN, ETC.

1. SUMMARY: IN FIRST INTERVIEW SINCE ARRIVING IN KUALA LUMPUR  
SEVEN MONTHS AGO, SOVIET AMBASSADOR BEDRYSHEV DISCUSSED A  
NUMBER OF CURRENT ISSUES INCLUDING INDIAN OCEAN, ASEAN, RELA-  
TIONS WITH US, SOVIET DISSIDENT ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN, AND  
TRADE WITH MALAYSIA. END SUMMARY.

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2. COMMENTING ON INDIAN OCEAN, BENDRYSHEV STATED "WE HAVE

NEVER CREATED ANY MILITARY OR NAVY BASES IN REGION NOR DO WE INTEND TO. SOVIET SHIPS IN REGION DO NOT THREATEN ANYONE. THEY ARE EITHER ON TRAINING CRUISES OR ENGAGED IN RECOVERY OF COSMIC APPARATUS BUT THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW." HE ADDED, "WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO CONSIDER ON AN EQUAL BASIS PROPOSAL TO MAKE THE INDIAN OCEAN A ZONE OF PEACE."

3. ON ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASEAN NATIONS (ASEAN), BENDRYSHEV QUOTED BREZHNEV: "WE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THAT THERE IS AN INCREASE OF EFFORTS TO FIND PRACTICAL WAYS TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY OF ALL ASIAN STATES." COMMENTING ON THIS, BENDRYSHEV ADDED: "OUR LEADERS HAVE POINTED OUT OFTEN THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVES." MOVING ON TO RELATIONS WITH US, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED RELATIONS WERE FRIENDLY AND THIS FRIENDSHIP WILL BENEFIT THE WORLD. HE ADDED, "ALLEGATIONS ABOUT A COLLUSION OF POWERS ARE NOTHING BUT AN INVENTION OF THOSE WHO DO NOT LIKE TO LESSEN THE TENSIONS OF THE WORLD AND WHO WOULD LIKE TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS."

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, BENDRYSHEV ALSO TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON EXILED RUSSIAN WRITER ALEXANDER SOLZENITSYN NOTING "SOLZHENITSYN AND OTHER SO-CALLED DISSENTERS DO NOT REPRESENT IN ANY WAY OUR LITERATURE AND THEY ARE BEING POPULARISED BY OUR IDEOLOGICAL ENEMIES."

5. WRAPPING UP THE INTERVIEW, BENDRYSHEV, NOTING IMBALANCE OF TRADE BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE SOVIET UNION, ADDED "I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN BECOME INTERESTED IN OUR GOODS SUCH AS ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, ROAD BUILDING MACHINERY, MEDICINE, DIESELS, AEROPLANES, HYDROFOILS AND SUCH." HE SAID THERE SHOULD BE MORE UNBIASED INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION IN MALAYSIAN NEWSPAPERS, ADDING "MAYBE WE COULD WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN OUR NEWS AGENCY TASS, AND BERNAMA (MALAYSIAN NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY) FOR A MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION."

6. COMMENT: BENDRYSHEV ARRIVED IN MALAYSIA IN MID-JANUARY 1974 REPLACING AMBASSADOR KUZNETSOV. CLEARLY A CUT ABOVE HIS PREDECESSOR, BENDRYSHEV SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH AND PRESENTS A MORE SERIOUS (AND FRIENDLY) IMAGE OF THE SOVIET UNION HERE. INTERVIEW CITED ABOVE MIGHT BE SAID TO REPRESENT SOVIET EMBASSY'S FIRST SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT ON CURRENT ISSUES OF POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS IS PROBABLY AN EARLY MANIFESTATION OF WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE SOVIET'S INTENT TO UPGRADE AND REFINE THEIR OPERATIONS IN KUALA LUMPUR--A MOVE WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IMPELLED BY THE IMPENDING ARRIVAL OF A PRC PRESENCE IN THIS CITY. UNDERHILL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, TRADE PROMOTION, NAVAL SHIPS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974KUALA03830  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 112  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 MAR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by morefirh>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA STATES VIEWS ON INDIAN OCEAN, ASEAN, ETC.  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MY, SU, XO, ASEAN, (BENDRYSHEV)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005